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Philby, in Interview, Says He Would Spy For Russians Again

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LONDON, Wednesday, Nov. 5—Harold Philby said in an interview published here today that he had no regrets over his 10-year career of spying for the Soviet Union and would do it all over "if I were young again in Britain today."

Philby, a ranking British intelligence agent who defected to the Soviet Union in 1963, said that he led his life as a double agent because he wanted to "fight for Communism" and was "prepared to subjugate everything in pursuit of that purpose."

"I would do it again tomorrow," he said.

'Mentality of a Traitor'

He was interviewed by Roy Blackman, Daily Express reporter in Moscow, in a restaurant there. Officials of the newspaper here said that they had not paid for the interview and that it had resulted from "hounding" Philby.

The Sunday Times, which published a series of articles on the career of Philby in recent weeks, indicated in one of its pieces that Philby had asked for money for his personal story.

In an editorial note, The Express said that the interview could not have been obtained without the approval of the

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Soviet authorities, "wh...tives for discrediting the British and Western intelligence services are obvious." But it said that it was publishing the interview because it provided an insight "into the mentality of a traitor."

Philby had remained inaccessible to Western correspondents in Moscow since he arrived from Beirut, Lebanon, four years ago. He was seen Sunday night at the concert of the Moscow State Philharmonic, but said only that he had nothing to say.

The Daily Express, which included pictures of Philby and Mr. Blackman in the restaurant, said that the interview took place between "drams of vodka and glasses of white Georgian wine."

"I cannot say my conversion happened at any fixed point of time," Philby is quoted as saying, "but I do know that after two years of painful thought I had made up my mind in June, 1933."

Calls Job Easy

He said that it had not been difficult to reach a high position in British intelligence, "I just arranged things so that I was invited," he added.

Philby, regarded as the most important Soviet agent to penetrate the Western intelligence community, at one point headed the British anti-Soviet intelligence operation. In the late nineteen-forties he was sent to Washington to work with the Central Intelligence Agency, which was then getting organized.

He left the British intelligence service in 1955 and continued his spying as a journalist until his defection.

Philby said in the interview that, since his arrival in Moscow, "I have been treated with high honor and great consideration" and that "I cannot really regard my life as being one of hardship."

On British intelligence, Philby said that the British Government had great difficulties in finding the right men to run their intelligence services. Military men "have never really shone" in this field, he said.

Discusses Motives

"I am surprised that Americans were not better let," he added.

In discussing his motives for turning Communist, Philby recounted his feelings in 'thirties.

"The background of thinking was the economic crisis and massive unemployment throughout the capitalist world and the apparent

lessness of existing forces to deal with it. What a dismal picture it was."

Asked by Mr. Blackman what he missed of English life, Philby said that he missed beer and oysters, an occasional afternoon at the soccer matches and some friends.

But he added that there were some things he did not mind being without, listing "the expense-account lunch, British railways, the Beaverbrook press, all the humbug about police, bank holiday, The English Channel, the rising cost of living, the Order of the British Empire."

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